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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

The meeting was called to order at 7.20 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, before it could complete its work for the first part of the forty-eighth session, the Committee would be compelled to wait for documentation and facilities. It was extremely disappointing and unfair that, when delegations and some Secretariat staff had worked late into the night to secure adoption of the budget by consensus, other Secretariat offices had evidenced a corporatist and obstructive attitude and refused cooperation to the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 138: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.14)

Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.14

2. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.14 and drew Committee members' attention to two revisions. The word "necessary" should be deleted from paragraph 4 and the word "period" should be inserted in paragraph 13 so that the phrase would read "continue the operation beyond its current mandate period".

3. The draft resolution reflected Member States' deep concern about the delays in the submission of budget documents on peace-keeping operations (para. 6), their desire for corrective measures to prevent the recurrence of delays in the submission of full cost estimates (para. 14) and the need to consider peace-keeping budgets on an individual basis (para. 4). It also reflected Member States' reluctance to approve commitment authorities for as long a period as that proposed by the Secretary-General and their questions concerning the amounts of commitment and assessment proposed.

4. The draft resolution contained provisions dealing with the Secretary-General's proposals in document A/C.5/48/40. Based on the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, it expressed the Member States' concern about delays in documentation (paras. 5 and 6), the lack of adequate financial planning (para. 8), the lack of detailed consideration of peace-keeping operation budgets in the General Assembly (para. 9), the compilation of abbreviated statements of requirements of peace-keeping operations (para. 2) and the fact that performance and financing reports submitted by the Secretariat contained insufficient information (para. 16). It also stressed the need for resources to perform external audit functions adequately (para. 10).

5. The draft resolution provided for resources on an exceptional basis for the continuation of the peace-keeping operations, without constituting a precedent (para. 11) and authorized the continuation of certain peace-keeping operations beyond their current mandate periods, together with the corresponding commitments (para. 13). It also requested the Secretary-General to submit all performance and financing reports by 31 January 1994 for consideration by the General Assembly (para. 15). In that context, priority would be given to the

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consideration of the budgets of five peace-keeping operations whose commitment authority expired on 28 February 1994, namely, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) and the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The draft resolution proposed that the General Assembly should take action on each operation in a separate decision (para. 12). Accordingly, 17 draft decisions were being submitted to the Committee. The resource requirements of each operation were presented on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Each draft decision proposed, on an exceptional basis, a specific level of commitment authority and, where necessary, an amount of assessment. The amounts represented a compromise between the need to provide adequate resources to maintain each peace-keeping operation and the desire of many Member States to keep resource requirements at an acceptable level.

6. In conclusion, a number of delegations would appreciate an explanation of the delays in the submission of the cost estimates and performance reports for the peace-keeping operations. Such clarification should be provided by a senior officer in charge of administration and management. That would be useful in implementing the corrective measures requested in paragraph 14 of the draft resolution.

7. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that paragraph 13 was somewhat ambiguously drafted and could be interpreted as meaning that the Secretary-General had an open-ended commitment authority in respect of each ongoing operation subject only to the concurrence of the Security Council, which was not the intent. The problem could be resolved either by having the paragraph as a chapeau for the various draft decisions on peace-keeping operations before the Committee, since the same point was addressed in paragraph (a) of each draft decision, or by simply deleting paragraph 13.

8. Mr. KLEINJAN (Netherlands) said that his delegation was under the impression that paragraph 13 had not been definitively agreed upon, in view of which he supported its deletion.

9. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) drew attention to an error in paragraph 5 of the French text of the draft resolution, which should be aligned with the English text.

10. Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) agreed that paragraph 13 was not clear and seemed to contradict the other paragraphs in the draft resolution. He therefore favoured its deletion.

11. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that paragraph 13 had been included to provide the Secretary-General with commitment authority beyond the mandate period in respect of two operations with mandates ending on 31 January 1994. Nevertheless, his delegation could support its deletion.

12. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation considered that assessments should not be levied for periods in respect of which there was no

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current mandate. She could accept deletion of the paragraph, since the point was addressed in each draft decision.

13. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium), Mr. RAE (India) and Mr. RAMOS (Spain) agreed that paragraph 13 could be deleted.

14. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that paragraph 13 should be read in the context of paragraph 12. The important point was that the General Assembly was providing resources to maintain operations for additional minimum periods. Paragraph 13 could be amended to read "Decides further in the context of the action to be taken in accordance with paragraph 12, on an exceptional basis, to authorize the Secretary-General ...", in order to eliminate any ambiguity. His delegation's preference was for the paragraph to be retained.

15. Mr. RAE (India) said that even if amended as proposed the paragraph would still be ambiguous, and it would still be difficult for his delegation to accept it.

16. The CHAIRMAN suggested that paragraph 13 should be deleted.

17. It was so decided.

18. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) said that his delegation was willing to join in the emerging consensus on the draft resolution, but noted that it failed to refer to the four principles governing the financing of peace-keeping operations, namely, the collective responsibility of all Member States, the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, the fact that economically more developed countries were in a position to make relatively larger contributions, and the existence of a special scale for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses.

19. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that his delegation was willing to join in a consensus on the draft resolution, but agreed with the previous speaker regarding the desirability of making reference to the underlying principles. In any event his delegation would understand that those principles did indeed underlie the provisions of the draft resolution.

20. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that he had been well aware of the principles, which were set forth in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV), but had felt that their inclusion would have exceeded his mandate as coordinator.

21. Mr. MONAYAIR (Kuwait) said that his delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution on the understanding that those principles were recognized as important elements in the financing of peace-keeping operations.

22. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.14, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.15)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.15

23. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

24. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.15 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.16

25. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision and drew attention to three revisions to the text. In paragraph (b), the words "at this time" should be inserted after the word "apportion" and the phrase "of 22,876,600 dollars gross (22,400,000 dollars net)" after the word "amount" and, in paragraph (c), the figure 500,000 should be replaced by 476,600.

26. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.16, as orally revised, was adopted.

27. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country's position on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had not changed.

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.17

28. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

29. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.17 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 132: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.18

30. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

31. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.18 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 133: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.19

32. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

33. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.19 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 134: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.20

34. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

35. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.20 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 135: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.21

36. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

37. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.21 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 136: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.22

38. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

39. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.22 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 137: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA II (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.23

40. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

41. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.23 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 149: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN MOZAMBIQUE (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.24

42. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

43. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.24 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 160: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.25

44. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

45. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.25 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 162: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVATION MISSION IN GEORGIA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.26

46. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

47. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.26 was adopted.

48. Mr. APTSIAURI (Georgia) said that, earlier that same evening, the Security Council had met to consider the situation in Georgia and had adopted an important instrument which would considerably accelerate the peace-making process in the area. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Fifth Committee and to the Advisory Committee for the significant contribution they had made, manifested in the decision just adopted, to the process of building peace in Georgia.

AGENDA ITEM 164: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.27

49. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

50. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.27 was adopted.

51. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that the references in all the decisions pertaining to peace-keeping operations to the resolution to be adopted on agenda item 127 were not relevant, since nothing had been decided in 1993 which would entail any change in the actual scale of assessments. The decision to be taken on agenda item 138, relating to the placement of Member States in the scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations, also referred to in the decisions, was relevant, however, since certain countries had now been moved down to group (d).

52. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would be advised to take both resolutions into account, since new Member States had been included on the regular budget scale and assessments had been determined in respect of those States, thus the resolution on the regular budget scale was also of relevance.

53. Mr. NDOBOLI (Uganda) said that his Government considered the administrative linkage between the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) to be purely for purposes of convenience and trusted that any aspects of such linkage which would affect the mandate of UNOMUR as set out in Security Council resolution 846 (1993) would be avoided. His comments also applied to the draft decision on the financing of UNAMIR (A/C.5/48/L.30), which the Committee would be considering subsequently.

AGENDA ITEM 165: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.28

54. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

55. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.28 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 166: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.29

56. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

57. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.29 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 173: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.30

58. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

59. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.30 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 174: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.31

60. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) introduced the draft decision.

61. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.31 was adopted.

62. Ms. HOLLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had joined the consensus because it seemed to be the only way to ensure that the 17 peace-

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keeping operations would be provided any resources at all in the immediate term. It felt extremely uncomfortable, however, about the totally arbitrary method used to determine the assessment figures, for the Fifth Committee had effectively ignored the recommendations of the Secretariat and the relevant expert body, the Advisory Committee. Her delegation shared the view that the sketchy information provided by the Secretariat and the format in which it was presented were wholly inadequate and that the situation must be improved.

63. The peace-keeping operations were mot abstractions, but rather real-life situations of conflict, war and devastation. The men and women of troop-contributing countries who risked their lives in those situations depended on the United Nations for logistical support. The Fifth Committee had a responsibility to ensure that the Organization had the resources to provide for their needs, regardless of the status of the budget documents. Authorizing expenditures of only one third the amount requested by the Secretary-General would not be sufficient to meet those needs. Consequently, the continuation of the peace-keeping operations would once again depend on the good will of troop contributors who would not be compensated for their troops or logistical services they provided. Her delegation hoped that the necessary information on the peace-keeping budgets would be available early in 1994.

64. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the comments just made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

65. Mr. MÜNCH (Germany) said that, although his delegation had supported the consensus on the peace-keeping decisions, the amounts contained in those decisions were, in most cases, even lower than those recommended by ACABQ and would be barely adequate to cover needs. While Germany shared the general misgivings about the time constraints under which the Committee had been placed, it stressed that peace-keeping operations must be able to continue on a solid financial basis. It had therefore joined the consensus only with great reluctance.

66. Mr. MILLER (Canada) said that the decisions adopted had the inevitable failing of all compromises: no one could be entirely happy with the result. He urged all delegations, in future discussions, not to allow their displeasure over defects in the budgetary process to jeopardize the maintenance of peace-keeping operations vital to international peace and security. In addition, he hoped that the strong views expressed in recent meetings by certain Member States would not mean that the Committee would be compelled, once again, to choose between approving expenditures without proper review or setting peace-keeping operations at risk. In the light of those considerations, his delegation had been pleased to join the consensus.

67. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) stressed the importance, in the financing of peace-keeping operations, of finding solutions which were fair to all troop-contributing countries, and, in particular, the developing countries. The current situation might cause those countries to freeze the levels of troop contributions and deter potential contributors from contributing, thus adversely affecting the continuance of crucial peace-keeping operations.

68. Mr. BEN HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that his delegation welcomed the Committee's adoption of the various decisions on peace-keeping operations, despite the difficult circumstances and constraints in which it had found itself. He stressed the need for the sound management of peace-keeping operations, which, accordingly, must be placed on a reliable financial basis. Noting the significant efforts made by troop-contributing countries in providing personnel and equipment to those operations, he stressed that the commitment of Member States to the cause of peace should be accompanied by respect for their financial commitments as set forth in the Charter and the rules and regulations of the United Nations system.

69. Mr. KELLY (Ireland) and Ms. JONSVIK (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that their delegations fully associated themselves with the statement by the representative of the United Kingdom.

70. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation had only reluctantly joined the consensus on the financing of the peace-keeping operations, not because of any problems with the political mandates of those operations but because of the budgetary practices followed and the incomplete submission of information. The United States Government was unable to make financial commitments without the approval of its Congress, which was becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of information provided by the Secretary-General. He hoped that there would be improvements in the financing and approval process of peace-keeping operations so that Congress could be assured that the interests of the United States people were being fully respected.

71. Mr. DAMICO (Brazil) said that his country had also reluctantly joined the consensus since the decisions taken were at variance with the Secretary-General's requests and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. There were two underlying reasons for that variance: first, the lack of budgetary documentation on new peace-keeping operations and, second, the decision taken at the resumed forty-seventh session to grant commitment authorities to major peace-keeping operations. He stressed that the Committee should, however, stand by its previous decisions and welcomed the fact that, for the time being, the financing of the peace-keeping operations was not in jeopardy.

72. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that he wished to place on record the implications of the decisions which the Committee had just adopted on the financing of peace-keeping operations.

73. With respect to cash balances and assessments, the decisions provided for assessments of approximately $578 million, including cash balances in the peace-keeping accounts. Most of those balances had been committed for peace-keeping expenditures currently recorded in the accounts as unliquidated obligations. The Secretariat recognized that unencumbered balances of appropriations should be credited to Member States and agreed in principle to take into account those amounts as well as any outstanding assessments due from Member States when making additional assessments. It did not believe, however, that cash balances in peace-keeping accounts based on prior assessments should be targeted in order to reduce assessments when there were clear indications that future cash requirements would exceed the assessments contemplated. Unless Member States

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paid their peace-keeping assessments in full, including the outstanding assessments of some $1 billion, severe cash flow problems would arise in the near future, since the current cash balances of approximately $380 million had been used to arrive at the assessments just approved. Experience had shown, moreover, that less than half of the assessments on Member States was paid after three months.

74. Given the limited resources likely to be available, priority would have to be given to disbursements relating to monthly subsistence allowances, salaries, troop rations, travel and rotation costs, and certain supplies which were critical to the proper functioning of the missions. Lower priority might have to be given to certain items of procurement and to the maintenance of equipment, buildings and premises. The reimbursement of troop contributors might also be affected and the Secretariat hoped that troop-contributing Member States would be understanding, since the decisions just adopted had placed it in a difficult situation with regard to the management of its cash flow. The additional commitment authority provided recognized the need for resources over and above the amounts to be assessed. Those commitments, however, were not backed by the authority to assess and serious cash flow problems early in 1994 were therefore unavoidable.

75. On the subject of reporting requirements, he explained that the delay in the submission of cost estimates had been due to the large number of operations which had recently been established, the need to obtain information from the field, and the fact that the increase in staff resources had not kept pace with the increase in workload. In the light of that situation, unless the Secretariat was given realistic deadlines, it might not be able to implement the requests of the General Assembly.

76. Recent cuts in the staffing provided through the support account for peace-keeping operations were certain to place greater burdens on the Secretariat, and particularly within units such as the Department of Administration and Management, the Accounts Division and the Recruitment and Placement Division, which provided the institutional, administrative and financial support needed for compiling the data sought by Member States in their quest for greater transparency. Despite the many constraints, however, the Secretariat would make every effort to comply with the General Assembly's requests.

The meeting was suspended at 9 p.m. and resumed at 9.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/48/L.10)

77. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh), Rapporteur, introducing the draft report of the Fifth Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/C.5/48/L.10 (Part 1)), said that the Committee recommended a gross appropriation of $2,580,200,200 and an estimate for income other than income

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derived from staff assessment of $66,037,500. Net expenditure for the biennium 1994-1995 was thus estimated at $2,514,162,700.

78. The Committee also recommended an estimate of $411,364,200 as staff assessment for transfer in the course of the biennium 1994-1995 to the Tax Equalization Fund, from which credits were distributed to Member States in accordance with General Assembly resolution 973 (X).

79. The Committee had considered a consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates that were subject to the criteria for the use of the contingency fund (A/C.5/48/63) and the corresponding report of the Advisory Committee, which was presented orally. The consolidated amount fell within the available balance of the contingency fund and the Committee therefore approved the required amounts under the relevant sections of the programme budget. The reservations expressed by the delegations with respect to certain items of expenditure included in the budget estimates were reflected in the relevant summary records of the Committee.

80. The results of the decisions taken by the Committee on individual expenditure and income sections in first reading were contained in paragraph 10 of the report. Paragraph 12 listed the requirements under the various sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Finally, Chapter IV of the report dealt with the Committee's consideration of special subjects while Chapter V contained its recommendations.

81. Ms. ERIKSSON FOGH (Sweden) said that she would welcome clarification as to whether the Committee would be required to take any further action under section 10 of the proposed programme budget. In that connection, she recalled that the Governing Council of UNDP had informed the General Assembly of its decision to defer the proposed merger of the Office for Project Services and the Department for Development Support and Management Services.

82. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Advisory Committee was currently considering the matter on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General (A/48/502/Add.1 and 2). The Fifth Committee needed the recommendations and comments of the Advisory Committee before it could complete its own consideration of the item. Although the Secretariat would have preferred to defer consideration of the matter to the forty-ninth session, it had decided to keep it on the agenda of the forty-eighth session pending completion of the Advisory Committee's report.

83. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolutions III (Questions related to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995), IV (Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995) and V (Working capital fund for the biennium 1994-1995) in the draft report.

84. Draft resolutions III, IV and V were adopted without a vote.

85. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the approval of the programme budget before the end of the year reflected the political will and commitment of Member

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States to ensure that the Organization entered the following biennium on a solid footing. He wished to thank, in particular, the Advisory Committee and the Committee for Programme Coordination for their extraordinary efforts in reviewing the budget proposals and presenting their recommendations to the Fifth Committee under extremely difficult circumstances.

86. Member States had made it clear that they expected a renewed and invigorated United Nations and he wished to assure them that the Secretary-General was fully committed to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to him and to implementing the decisions of the General Assembly.

87. While recognizing the need for continued dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat, he noted that strict observance of the respective prerogatives of Member States and the Secretary-General, exercised with the shared purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the Organization, was an essential condition for progress. Not least among the responsibilities of the Secretary-General was the overall administration of the Organization and, in his capacity as chief administrative officer, he was duty bound to take all necessary measures to implement fully the tasks assigned to him.

88. Regrettably, some of the decisions just adopted would hamper the essential backstopping functions of the peace-keeping operations and weaken the capacity of the Secretariat to meet fully the expectations of Member States. The Secretary-General would nevertheless make every effort to ensure the orderly functioning of all aspects of those operations.

89. The Secretariat had been criticized during the current session for the delays in the issuance of documents, which had greatly hampered the Committee's work. While it was fully committed to ensuring that documentation would in future be made available on time, the reporting requests and time-frames given to the Secretariat must be realistic if it was to be able to carry out its assigned tasks, be fully responsive and accountable to review bodies, and present meaningful reports which would facilitate the deliberations of Member States. Although many of the issues were the subject of the ongoing work of the Secretariat, many others required a greater degree of review and analysis before the concerns of Member States could be adequately met.

90. With regard to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Committee during the current session, he noted that the preparation and submission of a total of 29 budget-related reports would be required during 1994. In addition, the General Assembly had requested 12 reports, while the Advisory Committee had made over 35 observations and requests for action by the Secretariat. The reports requested included the preparation of a prototype of the medium-term plan and revisions to the current medium-term plan, both of which were extremely time-consuming exercises. In addition to its regular workload, moreover, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance would be responsible for the preparation and coordination of most of the budget-related reports requested. Given the time-frame and the limited staff resources available, and particularly since the reports must be prepared in time for review by the Advisory Committee, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Economic and Social Council

during the first six months of 1994, the Secretariat might have some difficulty in meeting all the prescribed deadlines but would do its utmost to comply with the requests.

AGENDA ITEM 121: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.33

91. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on the draft decision entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1994-1995" (A/C.5/48/L.33).

92. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.33 was adopted without a vote.

Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.35

93. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft decision A/C.5/48/L.35 entitled "Action taken on certain documents".

94. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) said that subparagraph (b) (ii) of the draft decision should be moved, becoming subparagraph (a) (xxii).

95. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) wondered why no report had been submitted on the question of staff assessment, since the Committee had requested such a report at the forty-seventh session. He also noted the absence of a report on the financing of staff union activities from the list of documents included in draft decision A/C.5/48/L.35. That item had been deferred from the forty-seventh to the forty-eighth session and, as far as he was aware, the Committee was required to take action on it.

96. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretary-General would issue a report on the question of staff assessment but he was not in a position to say when that report would be available.

97. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that a report had been issued on the question of the financing of staff union activities and was still to be considered by the Fifth Committee.

98. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that his delegation would prefer to discuss the report during the resumed forty-eighth session.

99. The CHAIRMAN said that the item would be added to the list of issues to be considered by the Committee during the resumed session.

100. Draft decision A/C.5/48/L.35, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

101. Ms. WELLS (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) congratulated the Committee for having succeeded in what many thought could not be done. She said that, while the Committee had a challenging agenda in front of it for 1994, she was confident that similar success could be achieved in the future.

102. After an exchange of courtesies, in which Mr. de ALMEIDA (Angola), on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. CAMACHO (Ecuador), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, Ms. SAEKI (Japan), on behalf of the Group of Asian States, and Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, took part, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work for the first part of the forty-eighth session.

The meeting rose at 9.20 p.m.